

Andrew Bowden

Desire in Paul's Undisputed Epistles

Semantic Observations on the Use of *epithymēō*, *ho epithymētēs*, and *epithymía* in Roman Imperial Texts

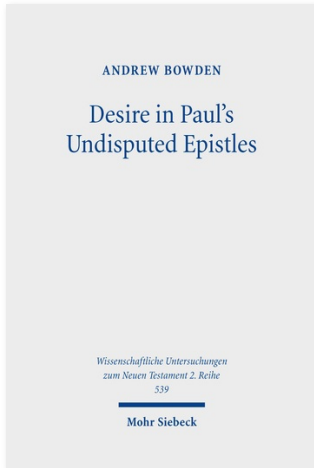
[»Verlangen« in Paulus' unumstrittenen Briefen. Semantische Beobachtungen zur Verwendung von *epithymēō*, *ho epithymētēs*, und *epithymía* in Texten der römischen Kaiserzeit.]

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In this study, Andrew Bowden analyzes Paul's use of »desire« (*ἐπιθυμέω*, *ἐπιθυμητής*, and *ἐπιθυμία*) in his undisputed epistles. After introducing critical research on these lexemes, the author applies John Lyons's theory of semantic analysis to the use of *ἐπιθυμέω* κτλ in Roman imperial texts. Based on these observations, he makes a hypothesis concerning the common co-occurrences of »desire« in Roman imperial texts, its antonyms, the objects it longs for, and its use within metaphorical discourse. This hypothesis is then tested by looking at the use of »desire« in Dio Chrysostom, Epictetus, Lucian of Samosata, the Cynic epistles, and Second Temple Jewish texts. Andrew Bowden illustrates how, contrary to the view of many scholars, these Roman imperial authors consistently mention positive objects of »desire.« He then applies these findings concerning »desire« to Paul, yielding important and sometimes unexpected discoveries.

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